

Senate Bill 326  
Report to the Environmental Quality Council

(note: light blue font indicates changes from 2018 report)

Senate Bill 326 passed during the 2015 legislative session (codified in §77-1-820, MCA), requires the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to report to the Environmental Quality Council the following information associated with recreational use on state trust lands:

- a) existing road closures and restrictions on state lands;
- b) anticipated road closures and restrictions on state lands; and
- c) ongoing travel management planning on state lands or foreseeable travel management planning by the department or by the department in conjunction with federal agencies conducting travel management planning that may impact state lands.

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Existing Road Closures

Recreational motorized vehicle use is limited to federal, state & county roads, trails developed by the department for motorized use, and roads designated as open by the DNRC (§77-1-804 (5)(c)). Since the 2018 report, there have been no closures of recreational use roads that were previously designated as open by the Department.

Roads on classified forest lands are generally managed in accordance with the Habitat Conservation Plan for those lands. The Administrative Rules for Forest Management stipulate that the number of roads constructed for both short and long-term forest management activities be minimized and to plan, when possible, road systems cooperatively with adjacent landowners. This rule also directs DNRC to close or abandon roads that are non-essential to management plans.

Recreational Use Restrictions

Attached is a list of existing recreational use restrictions and closures on state lands. Since 2018, there have been five restrictions put in place by the DNRC's Central Land Office. Four of these restrictions limit hunting to shotgun and/or archery only. These were all near surrounding homes and were done in response to public complaints. One is a temporary restriction which limits recreational shooting due to public safety, livestock safety, and resource damage concerns. This restriction is currently under review to determine if it should become permanent. It has been in place since fall of 2019.

Anticipated Road Closures and Restrictions

Outside of forest management activities, there are no anticipated road closures planned.

Travel Management Planning by the Department

DNRC worked with partners to take over and manage a road formerly under USFS control that accesses State (FWP and DNRC) BLM, USFS lands in the area in and around the Blacktail Wildlife Management Area in Beaverhead County.

In conjunction with the BLM and Montana FWP, DNRC continues working with the Beaverhead Recreational use working group for the southwest Montana area. Along with agency staff, the group includes private landowners, sportsmen, local legislators and county commissioners. The goal is to bring folks together and find workable solutions for all sides that promote the following ideas:

- Promote public access and hunting opportunity on the public landscape in Southwest Montana
- Enhance ethical hunting and responsible road use on public and private lands
- Protect public and private land and wildlife habitat and resources of southwest Montana by effectively enforcing restrictions, closures, and closed roads.
- The group is currently working on a travel management plan for the [Basin Creek and China Town areas of Beaverhead County](#).
- As a result of this cooperative effort in travel planning over the past two years, a net total of 3 miles of roads have been opened to motorized use during hunting season that have historically been managed as closed.

#### Travel Management Planning in conjunction with Federal Agencies

DNRC staff are currently participating in the planning process with the following Federal Agency Offices:

#### **BLM**

- Miles City Field Office – The BLM is currently conducting inventories of existing roads including those on state trust lands.
- Missoula Field Office – In the summer of 2019 [the DNRC submitted comments on the BLM Missoula Resource Area RMP to the Governor’s Office, who ultimately responded to the BLM.](#)
- Lewistown & Malta Field Offices – Travel Management Areas are being inventoried and the NEPA reviews are ongoing.
- Havre & Glasgow Field Offices – Travel planning expected to begin in 2019 [update: this has been delayed indefinitely.](#)

#### **Forest Service**

- The Custer-Gallatin National Forest has released a draft Record of Decision for their Forest Plan update, which combines older plans from the Custer National Forest and the Gallatin National forest. The DNRC has commented on the draft record of decision noting to maintain flexibility to retain roads for effective initial attack on wildland fires to protect communities and high priority watershed. Additionally, we asked the forest to continue to coordinate with state and local governments on future project and travel plans to ensure important access is provided to state and private lands. The DNRC has been an active participant in the Intergovernmental Working Group that the CGNF established as part of the plan revision process.
- The Helena/Lewis and Clark National Forest Travel Management Plans were recently completed by mountain range within the forest boundaries before development of their recent Forest Plan Revision and thus incorporated directly. Recently, a notice of intent to sue was provided to the Forest alleging their road closure methods are not adequate to protect habitat

resulting in potential new road closures. The DNRC has provided the FS a notice of support that their roads closure methods are adequate with no need to close additional roads.

County	Closure/Restriction Type	T - R - S	Restriction (if applicable)	Reason	Comments
Beaverhead	Restriction Permanent	13S 4W 16	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Closed to Rifle Hunting. Duffner Ranch-Long Creek.
Beaverhead	Restriction Permanent	4S 8W 36	Archery Only	Public Safety	Hunters are authorized to traverse the State Lands with weapons intended for use within the high-water marks of the river. Raffety Ranch
Beaverhead	Restriction Permanent	4S 9W 36	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Closed to Rifle Hunting. Wueste Ranch
Beaverhead	Restriction Permanent	7S 8W 16	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	SE 1/4 Closed to Rifle and Muzzleloader Hunting. Sweetwater Road
Beaverhead	Restriction Permanent	13S 9W 15	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Restriction Effective Beginning on November 4, 2017.
Beaverhead	Restriction Permanent	13S 9W 16	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Restriction Effective Beginning on November 4, 2017.
Beaverhead	Restriction Permanent	13S 9W 21	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Restriction Effective Beginning on November 4, 2017.
Blaine	Restriction Permanent	30N 19E 13	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Property/Site Protection	Firearms Prohibited W of County Rd
Blaine	Restriction Permanent	30N 19E 24	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Property/Site Protection	Firearms prohibited west of county road
Blaine	Restriction Permanent	31N 19E 16	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Property/Site Protection	Discharge of firearms prohibited east of county road
Blaine	Restriction Permanent	31N 19E 36	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Property/Site Protection	Discharge of firearms prohibited in area E of Co Rd
Broadwater	Closure Permanent	6N 1E 16	Full Closure	Public Safety	DMA Limestone Hills Firing Range
Broadwater	Restriction Permanent	7N 1E 36	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Firearms Prohibited, Old River Road Townsend
Carbon	Restriction Permanent	9S 25E 16	Prairie Dog Shooting Prohibited	Wildlife Protection	Prairie Dog Shooting Prohibited
Cascade	Closure Permanent	19N 2W 20	Full Closure	Property/Site Protection	Bird Tail/Full Closure/N2NE4
Cascade	Restriction Permanent	18N 1W 35	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Archery and Shotgun hunting only-Cascade

Cascade	Restriction Permanent	19N 1E 36	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Rifles prohibited-changed to read archery, shotgun & muzzleloader only Tracey Mikes
Cascade	Restriction Permanent	22N 3E 36	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Proximity to Surrounding Homes
Cascade	Restriction Permanent	20N 2E S36	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Proximity to Surrounding Homes
Cascade	Restriction Permanent	19N 3E S16	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Proximity to Surrounding Homes
Custer	Closure Permanent	7N 53E 16	Full Closure	Property/Site Protection	Closed to all recreational use
Fallon	Closure Permanent	8N 57E 36	Full Closure	Property/Site Protection	Closed to all recreational use
Fergus	Restriction Permanent	15N 18E 36	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Archery and Shotgun Use only
Flathead	Restriction Permanent	27N 19W 14	Archery & Shotgun Only	Property/Site Protection	Archery and Shotgun Use only
Flathead	Restriction Permanent	29N 22W 36	Closed to Hunting	Public Safety	Closed to Hunting
Flathead	Restriction Permanent	32N 22W 32	Firearm Discharge Restriction	Public Safety	Discharge of firearms prohibited from Dec. 1-May 1.
Gallatin	Restriction Temporary	2N 2E 18 E2	Firearm Discharge Restriction	Public Safety, Resource Damage, Ag/Grz Conflicts	Prohibit Recreational Shooting (not hunting)
Gallatin	Restriction Permanent	1N 4E 32	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Only, surrounded by subdivision, homes within 1/4 mile.
Gallatin	Restriction Permanent	1N 4E 33	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Only, surrounded by subdivision, homes within 1/4 mile.
Gallatin	Restriction Permanent	1S 4E 11	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Only, surrounded by subdivision, homes within 1/4 mile.
Gallatin	Restriction Permanent	1S 4E 8	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Only, surrounded by subdivision, homes within 1/4 mile.
Gallatin	Restriction Permanent	2S 6E 21	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Only, surrounded by subdivision, homes within 1/4 mile.
Gallatin	Restriction Permanent	2S 6E 28	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Only
Jefferson	Closure Permanent	6N 4W 16	Full Closure	Property/Site Protection	Full Closure east of I-15/Dave Reider home place and I-15,
Jefferson	Restriction Permanent	9N 2W S8	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Proximity to Surrounding Homes
Lewis and Clark	Restriction Permanent	13N 4W 16	Archery Only	Public Safety	Proximity to Surrounding Homes

Lewis and Clark	Restriction Permanent	19N 7W 2	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery only east of HWY 435
Lewis and Clark	Restriction Permanent	19N 8W 3	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Archery and Shotgun only, JT Weisner
Lewis and Clark	Restriction Permanent	19N 8W 4	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Archery and Shotgun only, JT Weisner
Lewis and Clark	Restriction Permanent	20N 6W 16	Rifles Prohibited	Public Safety	Use of rifles is prohibited-Augusta
Lewis and Clark	Restriction Permanent	20N 7W 36	Archery Only	Public Safety	Changed from hunting prohibited to archery only in 2012, Tee Bar
Lincoln	Restriction Permanent	37N 27W 36	Hunting Prohibited	Public Safety	Closed to All Licensed Hunting due to proximity of dwellings and Hwy. #93.
Madison	Closure Permanent	4S 6W 16	East of Co rd./ East Bench Rd.	Property/Site Protection	Closed to all hunting due to Pivot in field. Martin Ranch - Van Davis Ranch
Madison	Restriction Permanent	3S 6W 29	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Closed to Rifle Hunting. Melrose Bench Road, West of Twin Bridges.
Madison	Restriction Permanent	3S 6W 30	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Closed to Rifle Hunting. Melrose Bench Road, West of Twin Bridges.
Madison	Restriction Permanent	4S 5W 16	Archery Only	Public Safety	Closed to rifle, shotgun, and muzzleloader hunting. House Prox. Wisconsin Creek, Sheridan
Madison	Restriction Permanent	4S 7W 11	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Closed to rifle hunting. Restriction put in place by the Land Board as part of the SRI River Holdings, LLC land exchange that was approved in 2017.
Madison	Restriction Permanent	4S 8W 36	Archery Only	Public Safety	Hunters are authorized to traverse the State Lands with weapons intended for use within the high-water marks of the river. Raffety Ranch
Meagher	Closure Permanent	9N 6E 36	Full Closure	Public Safety	White Sulphur Spring Airport
Missoula	Restriction Permanent	13N 18W 30	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Discharge of Firearms Prohibited - Consistent w/ surrounding USFS land
Missoula	Restriction Permanent	13N 18W 30	No Camping/Campfires	Public Safety	No camping, campfires - Consistent w/ surrounding USFS land

Missoula	Restriction Permanent	16N 15W 12	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Firearms Prohibited - surrounded by Double Arrow Subdivision
Park	Closure Permanent	1S 10E 36	Full Closure	Public Safety	Livingston Airport
Park	Closure Permanent	9S 8E 16	Full Closure	Public Safety	Gardiner Airport
Park	Restriction Permanent	7S 7E 16	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Use of rifles (excluding muzzleloaders/shotguns) is prohibited. Archery hunting OK
Petroleum	Closure Permanent	17N 25E 16	Hunting Prohibited	Exchange of Use	Private land in All of Sec 1 and NE4 Sec 3 18N 24E open for rec use
Phillips	Closure Permanent	22N 24E 36	Hunting Prohibited	Wildlife Protection	SE 1/4 - Slippery Ann Closed area/CMR
Phillips	Restriction Permanent	22N 29E 16	Prairie Dog Shooting Prohibited	Wildlife Protection	Prairie Dog shooting prohibited
Phillips	Restriction Permanent	24N 27E 36	Prairie Dog Shooting Prohibited	Wildlife Protection	Prairie Dog shooting prohibited
Powell	Restriction Permanent	15N 12W 16	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Firearms Prohibited south of corrals and west of the Monture Cr Road
Powell	Restriction Permanent	8N 9W 36	Rifles Prohibited	Public Safety	Archery & Shotgun Only
Ravalli	Restriction Permanent	10N 19W 15	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Discharge of Firearms Prohibited
Ravalli	Restriction Permanent	10N 19W 16	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Discharge of Firearms Prohibited
Ravalli	Restriction Permanent	10N 19W 21	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Discharge of Firearms Prohibited
Ravalli	Restriction Permanent	10N 19W 22	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Public Safety	Discharge of Firearms Prohibited
Ravalli	Restriction Permanent	7N 20W 36	Firearms/Shooting Prohibited	Property/Site Protection	Discharge of Firearms Prohibited/Closed to Public Use After Dark
Richland	Restriction Permanent	23N 54E 36	Archery Only	Property/Site Protection	Archery Hunting Only
Rosebud	Closure Permanent	6N 40E 28	Full Closure	Public Safety	Forsyth Country Club, Quinlan, Howard and Merry
Rosebud	Closure Temporary	1N 40E 16	Full Closure	Public Safety	Within active mine boundary Colstrip mine

Rosebud	Restriction Permanent	5S 42E 36	Archery Only	Property/Site Protection	Archery hunting only West of County Road
Stillwater	Closure Permanent	2S 23E 16	NW4 Closed to All Rec Use	Property/Site Protection	NW4 Closed to All Rec Use
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 10	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 16	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 17	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 20	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 21	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 22	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 28	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	23N 8W 9	No Camping/Campfires	Property/Site Protection	Deep Creek Access Agreement - Camping allowed in parking area only in NW4NW4 Sec 15.
Teton	Restriction Permanent	24N 5W 36	Rifles Prohibited	Public Safety	State land adjacent to the City of Choteau and residences nearby. Public safety
Teton	Restriction Temporary	24N 7W 17	TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve	Property/Site Protection	Special recreational use restriction only - Stewardship Lease 10404 - TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve

Teton	Restriction Temporary	24N 7W 3	TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve	Property/Site Protection	Special recreational use restriction only - Stewardship Lease 10404 - TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve
Teton	Restriction Temporary	24N 7W 4	TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve	Property/Site Protection	Special recreational use restriction only - Stewardship Lease 10404 - TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve
Teton	Restriction Temporary	24N 7W 5	TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve	Property/Site Protection	Special recreational use restriction only - Stewardship Lease 10404 - TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve
Teton	Restriction Temporary	24N 7W 7	TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve	Property/Site Protection	Special recreational use restriction only - Stewardship Lease 10404 - TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve
Teton	Restriction Temporary	24N 7W 8	TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve	Property/Site Protection	Special recreational use restriction only - Stewardship Lease 10404 - TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve
Teton	Restriction Temporary	25N 8W 32	TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve	Property/Site Protection	Special recreational use restriction only - Stewardship Lease 10404 - TNC Pine Butte Swamp Preserve
Teton	Closure Permanent	24N 6W 19	Full Closure	Property/Site Protection	Egg Mountain Paleontological Site
Teton	Closure Permanent	24N 7W 24	Full Closure	Property/Site Protection	Egg Mountain Paleontological Site
Treasure	Restriction Permanent	7N 36E 36	Archery & Shotgun Only	Public Safety	Archery & Shotgun Only
Wheatland	Closure Permanent	10N 15E 36	Rec Use not permitted	Public Safety	Judith Gap Wind Farm
Wheatland	Closure Permanent	6N 14E 16	Hunting Prohibited	Exchange of Use	Private Land in Sec 8, 17, 20, 7N 15E open for rec use
Wibaux	Restriction Permanent	12N 58E 16	Archery Only	Property/Site Protection	Archery Hunting only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 25E 10	Firearm Discharge Restriction	Public Safety	Shooting prohibited within 200 yds of Alkali Creek Road
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 25E 18	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 25E 20	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 25E 22	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 25E 8	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 26E 18	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only

Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 26E 20	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1N 26E 36	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1S 25E 25	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	1S 25E 36	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only	Public Safety	Archery, Shotgun & Muzzleloader Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	2N 24E 36	Archery Only	Public Safety	Archery Hunting Only
Yellowstone	Restriction Permanent	2S 24E 36	Recreational Shooting Prohibited	Property/Site Protection	Licensed Hunting Only